

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- ~~Figures~~ Figure 1 depicts an embodiment of the apparatus for an improved safety tap handle 10 used for selectively opening and closing a tap valve on a pressurized beverage system in accordance with the present invention. In general, the tap handle 10 consists of an elongated hollow shell 12 with an open end 11. According to the invention, a hardened foam 14 fills the interior of the shell 12, and the open end 11 is sealed with glue 16 and a threaded ferrule 18. Finally, a plastic cap 20 may be placed on top of the ferrule 18 in the preferred embodiment. --